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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Military Information from the
Sofia Area

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REFERENCES

1. Large numbers of soldiers and officers of the reserves have been called up since the early summer for training. Instructors include Soviet officers who demonstrate the use of new types of weapons. Soldiers complain that the training is very strenuous and is carried out under high pressure.
2. Few troop movements or few soldiers off duty are seen near Sofia, which may mean that special courses are being held near the frontiers. Soviet tanks have been seen moving through the outskirts of Sofia very early in the morning.
3. AA aircraft positions have been built on the outskirts of Sofia at Stalina, Vrashdebna, Tri Kladentsi, and Boyana. There is an antiaircraft gun on the roof of the National Bank in the center of the city.
4. After the amnesty announced in the USSR after Stalin's death, there was a general expectation that some similar announcement would be made in Bulgaria. No such statement has been made, however, and on the contrary, a number of army officers have been arrested and tried. Some officers are charged with crimes which they are alleged to have committed ten years ago, and the sentences have been heavy. Colonel Ivan Arabov and Colonel Iguben Kosupov were both sentenced to death in June. Colonel Semov (or Simov), head of the Bulgarian cavalry team which participated in the Olympic games at Helsinki has also been arrested.
5. Forty graduates of the former American School at Simeonovo, which is now being used as a training school for police officers, were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment following the destruction of Stalin's statue in Sofia shortly after his death.

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